Just as barns can vary in form and construction material, they vary in function. An English or a transverse frame barn may suits a variety of functions with simple changes to interior spaces. Some functions become closely allied with particular forms, however. A bank barn (Figure 241) is typically a stock and hay barn for example, the lower floor as stabling, feeding, and milking areas, the upper floor as hay loft. The double pen drive through corn crib (Figure 302) and the cantilevered chicken house (Figure 291) are both examples of highly specialized agricultural building forms, although the center drive corn crib one that exists over a very long period of time while the cantilevered chicken house has a shorter run. Agricultural buildings tend to become more specialized, more engineered over time: a multi-purpose barn eventually is replaced by multiple buildings each designed for one, or perhaps two specific functions – loft storage over a milking parlor, or over a stabling area, a free-standing stripping room, tobacco and machine storage. Where there was once a single chicken house, there is now a brooding house and a laying house, granaries are replaced by metal bunkers and silos, and so on.

In this section of the report, we will look first at barns, and then at smaller specialized resources such as chicken houses and corn cribs.

Figure 257: *MN 687, Multi-purpose Barn, early-mid twentieth century, Riley vicinity.*

Multi-Purpose Barn

This is a large building that houses multiple functions, functions, which often change over time. In some sense, nearly all barns are multi-purpose barns. A tobacco barn serves for tractor and truck storage, a corner of the barn may be divided off for a stable. Function changes over time as well: what was once a dairy barn is used for hanging tobacco as at WS 314 (Figure 277). But some barns were truly built to serve multiple functions. "Multi-purpose barn" is the largest category of barns in the survey, with 362 examples noted out of 743 barns, or nearly 50 percent. In the group of barns that were surveyed intensively, barns identified as multi-purpose barns are a somewhat smaller portion, about 30 percent.

The earliest multi-purpose barns in the region were most likely log barns such as WS 423 (Figure 245) and frame English type barns. Log barns and English barns survive late in some instances, such as the modified English barn at WS 315 (Figure 237), or at MN 687 (Figure 257), which includes a corn crib along one side of the cross aisle. Transverse frame multi-purpose barns are more typical in the region. We have already seen an example of a transverse frame multi-purpose barn at MN 685 (Figure 240). Other examples include MN 189 (Figure 258) and WS 98 (Figure 259), which includes stables for stock, corncribs, loft storage for hay and grain, and feeding troughs and hay racks for the animals (Figure 261). Late examples such as the multi-purpose barn at WS 476 are often used for both tobacco and stock (Figure 260), and in many cases are often indistinguishable from a standard tobacco barn without interior inspection.

Figure 258: *MN 189, Multi-purpose Barn, late nineteenth-early twentieth century, Manton vicinity*

Figure 259: *WS 98, Multi Purpose Barn, early twentieth century, Fredericktown vicinity.*

Figure 260: *WS 476, Multi-Purpose Stock/Tobacco Barn,*

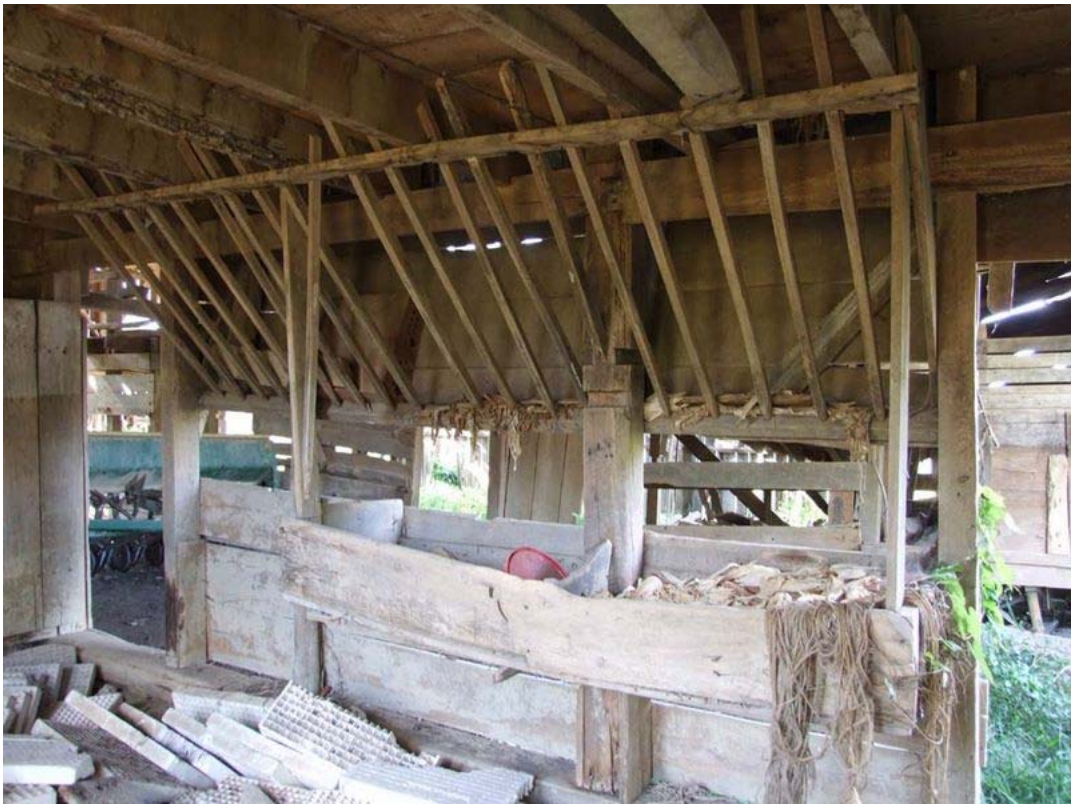

Figure 261: *WS 98, Feeding Rack and Manger. See also Figure 259.*

Stock Barns & Stables

A good portion of a multi-purpose barn is typically dedicated to the shelter and feeding of larger farm animals, as we find at MN 749 (Figure 263), where there are several dedicated stable areas on the ground floor (Figure 264). The distinction between a multi-purpose barn and a stock barn isn't always clear, but in short, stock barns are almost completely dedicated to that purpose on the ground floor, although they typically have loft storage overhead. 144 barns were identified as stock barns in the survey. A quite interesting example is found at WS 33 (Figure 262). This is an English barn type with a shutter that opens for hay loading in the steep cross-gable. It is one of the few barns with an identifiable style with its gothic profile. Impressive for its size is the stock barn at MN 917, which has two parallel aisles on the ground floor, each lined with stables (Figure 239).

When we talk about stables, we are typically referring to buildings dedicated to horses, although horses, mules, and other draft animals might share a stable. Farms in the survey area sometimes have a small dedicated stable in a location convenient to both the domestic and agricultural areas, as at WS 476 (Figure 265). The large and elaborate horse stables typical in the Central Bluegrass

are not common in the survey area. One exception that was documented is Kalarama Saddle bred Horse Farm. Here there are several larger barns dedicated to not only to stabling horses (Figure 266- Figure 268), but also to breeding and foaling (Figure 269).

Figure 262: *WS 33, Stock Barn, with stables, hay, and grain storage inside, late nineteenth century, Maud. Front of barn at left, back at right. An English barn type with a Gothic cross gable.*

Figure 263: *MN 749, Stock or Multi-purpose Barn, 1917, with later additions, Lebanon vicinity. See also Figure 264.*

Figure 264: *MN 749, Stables, Lebanon vicinity, interior. See also Figure 263.*

Figure 265: *WS 476, Stable, Early twentieth Century, Mackville Vicinity*

Figure 266: *WS 878, Horse Barn early-mid twentieth century, Kalarama Saddle bred Farm, Springfield. See also Figure 267.*

Figure 267: *WS 878, Horse Barn, interior of Figure 268.*

Figure 268: *WS 878, Horse Barn, early-mid twentieth century (built in two stages), Kalarama Saddle bred Farm, Springfield.*

Figure 269: *WS 878, Breeding and Foaling Barn, mid twentieth century, interior, Kalarama Saddle bred Farm, Springfield.*

Dairy barns, as the name implies, are specialized for dairying, typically combining the functions of a milking parlor and hay storage, and sometimes including a stabling area. Milk Houses, where milk is stored prior to shipping are sometimes included within the same structure, or they may be in an ell or a free-standing structure near the dairy barn. Dairy buildings, along with poultry houses, are among the most technologically developed buildings on a farm, subject to continual reforms due to the demands of milking and feeding the cows and handling the milk in a sanitary way. Period farm manuals continually offer plans for improved designs of dairy facilities (Figure 270). In the nineteenth century, dirt floors and wooden feed troughs were common features of dairy barns: by the mid twentieth century, poured concrete floors (Figure 22) and metal stanchions are normal.

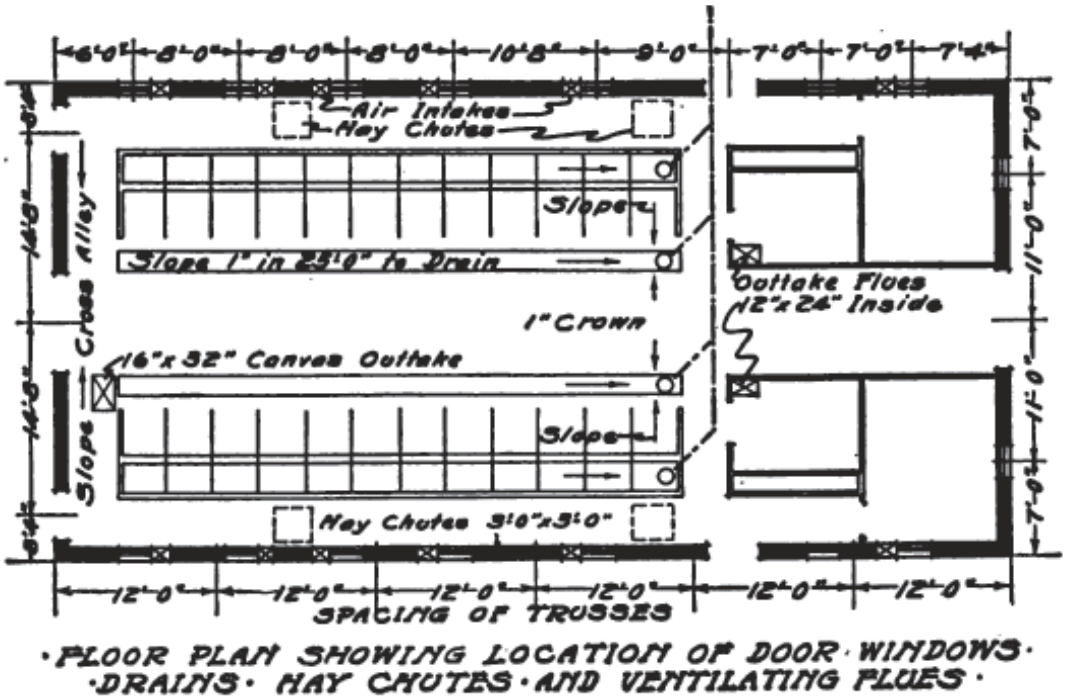

FIG. 11.—A floor plan of a dairy barn indicating location of hay chutes, ventilating flues, windows, etc.

Figure 270: *Floor plan of a Dairy Barn, from W.A. Foster & Deane G. Carter, Farm Buildings (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1922), 14.*

In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, bank barns lent themselves well to dairy farming, allowing ground level access to both the upper level for hay storage and the lower level for stabling and milking (Figure 271 - Figure 273). However, the development of hay bailers and

pulley loading systems made this convenience unnecessary in the early twentieth century. At the same time, developments in framing technology such as laminated or latticed rafter trusses allowed for the introduction of barns with large hay storage lofts uninterrupted by posts, such as the barn at MN 518 (Figure 274). Barns such as this were prefabricated and made available by mail order (Figure 275).

In the early-mid twentieth century, milk handling rooms become common. These are typically of concrete block masonry construction, either free-standing as at WS 974 (Figure 276) and MN 292 (Figure 278), or attached to the barn much like a stripping shed, as at WS 317 (Figure 277). Early examples were used for handling large cans of milk, while late examples have large tanks (Figure 279) and refrigeration. At the same time, the milking parlor becomes increasingly automated, allowing for greater efficiency and sanitation in the handling of the milk product.

48 dairy barns were documented in the region, most dating to the mid-late twentieth century, and several of them still in use.

Figure 271: *WS 98, Banked Dairy Barn, early-mid twentieth century, Fredericktown vicinity, uphill façade. See also Figure 272 and Figure 273.*

Figure 272: *WS 98 Dairy Barn, ¾ view. See also Figure 271 and Figure 273.*

Figure 273: *WS 98 Dairy Barn, downhill façade. See also Figure 271 and Figure 272.*

Figure 274: *MN 518, Dairy Barn, early twentieth century, Raywick vicinity. Compare to Figure 275.*

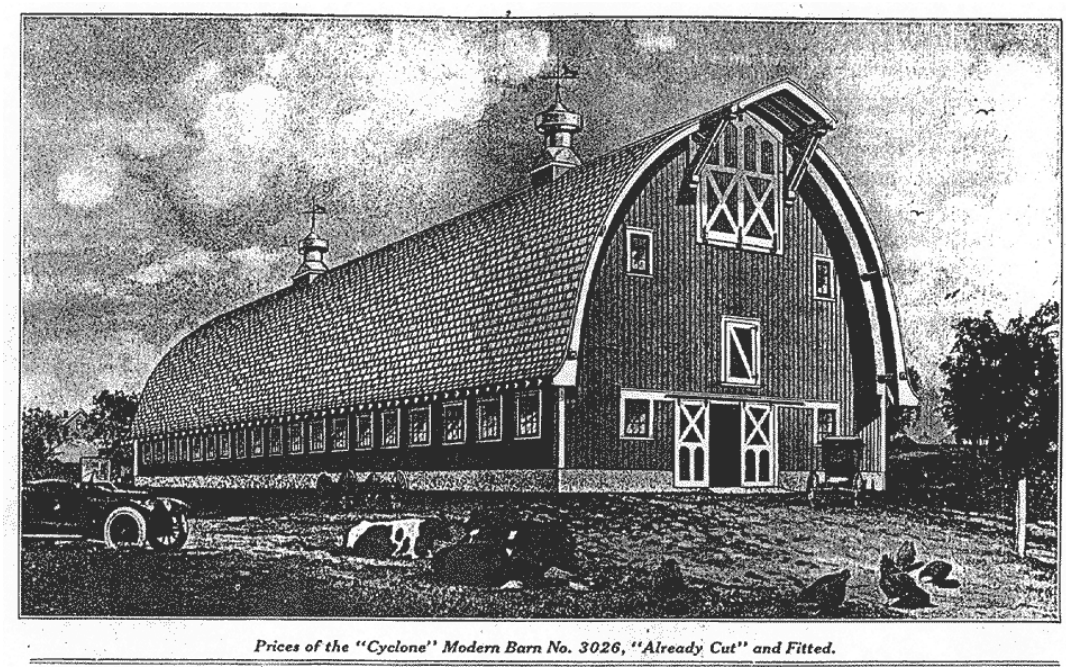

Figure 275: *Sears, Roebuck & Co "Cyclone" barn, 1918.*

Figure 276: *WS 974, Cheser Dairy/Tobacco Barn, Water Tank, and Dairy, late 1940s, Willisburg*

Figure 277: *WS 317, Transverse Frame Gambrel Roof Dairy Barn, now used for tobacco; early twentieth century, Fredericktown vicinity. The interior has stalls, milking, and feeding areas with a concrete trough, with a hay loft overhead. The extension at front right is a concrete block milk room. The barn is connected, via a board and batten section, to a concrete stave silo not visible here.*

Figure 278: *MN 292, Milkhouse, 1960s, Loretto vicinity.*

Figure 279: *WS 407, Milkhouse, interior view, late twentieth century, Mooresville vicinity.*

Figure 280: *WS 976. Tobacco Field, early June, Mackville vicinity.*

Tobacco Barns

Although tobacco production has declined somewhat in recent years, tobacco fields are still a familiar site in Kentucky (WS 976, Figure 280). Two types of tobacco are grown in Kentucky, and each has it own barn type: smoke cured and air cured. Only air cured barns have been documented in the Marion and Washington County region - smoke cured tobacco barns are found mainly in the Western regions of the state, such as the Purchase area. Tobacco growing was not a significant part of the region's early agricultural economy, which was devoted to "corn, hogs, and whiskey."[51] Tobacco production grew significantly in the late nineteenth-early twentieth century, following the rise in popularity of cigarettes. Consequently, documented tobacco barns in the region are predominantly from the twentieth century. Of the more than 250 tobacco barns documented in the region, 173 were identified as constructed in the period 1925-1974. Tobacco is also frequently cured in barns originally designed for other purposes, such as dairy barns (WS 324, Figure 277), or even small outbuildings such as corn cribs and sheds (WS

[51] Kentucky Encyclopedia, "Washington County" 935

85, Figure 300). At the same time, many multi-purpose barns were designed to cure tobacco and simultaneously serve one or more other purposes.

Figure 281: *MN 273, Caleb Ballard Farm, Frame Tobacco Barn with roof ventilator, 1939, Holy Cross.*

The typical form for an air-cured tobacco barn in Kentucky is a large, transverse frame barn (MN 273, for example, Figure 281). Large doors at each gable end open into an aisle that runs down the center. There are typically vented louvers along the sides of the building (these are visibly open at MN 515, Figure 285). The interior frame is crisscrossed with poles from which to hang the tobacco, which is attached to tobacco sticks (WS 403, Figure 254, and WS 357, Figure 282). Tobacco barns are usually accompanied by stripping rooms where the tobacco leaves are removed from the stalks and tied to tobacco sticks for drying. The tobacco sticks are riven or sawn sticks approximately four feet long (WS 860, Figure 283). Stripping rooms are typically small shed roof appendages to the front or side of the barn, accessible either from within the barn or from an exterior door (MN 273, Figure 281; MN 193, Figure 284; and WS 476, Figure 286). Detached stripping sheds have also been documented in the region (WS 590, Figure 287). In some cases, the stripping room may be of masonry construction in contrast to the frame of the

barn. Stripping rooms commonly have some accommodation for heat such as a stove or electric heater.

Tobacco barns are frequently located well away from the house, in the agricultural area, grouped with other barns (WS 476, Figure 3). It is also pretty typical to find tobacco barns in isolated locations well away from a house or agricultural complex, in close proximity to tobacco fields and situated on rises to take advantage of winds for drying (see MN 217, Figure 235 and WS 798, Figure 288). In some cases, they are situated near rural roads to facilitate loading tobacco from multiple locations.

Figure 282: *WS 357, Mid-twentieth century Tobacco Barn, Mooresville vicinity. Interior view, with tobacco hanging.*

Figure 283: *WS 860, Tobacco Barn, circa 1940, Springfield vicinity. Interior detail showing a cradle of tobacco sticks stored in the off-season.*

Figure 284: *MN 193, Tobacco Barn with attached Stripping Shed, mid twentieth century, Holy Cross vicinity.*

Figure 285: *MN 515, Frame Tobacco Barn, mid-late twentieth century, Raywick vicinity.*

Figure 286: *WS 476, Tobacco Barn with attached Stripping Shed, 1950-70, Mackville vicinity.*

Figure 287: *WS 590, Detached Stripping Shed, mid twentieth century, Jenkinsville vicinity.*

Figure 288: *WS 798, Tobacco Barn, later twentieth century, Mackville vicinity.*